

**Amendments to the Specification**

Please replace the paragraph number 1 with the following revised paragraph:

[1] This application is a continuation-in-part of and claims priority from U.S. Patent Application No. ~~10/390,117~~ 6,939,796 filed on March 14, 2003 and entitled "System, Method and Apparatus For Improved Global Dual-Damascene Planarization," which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety. This application is also a continuation-in-part of and claims priority from U.S. Patent Application No. ~~10/390,520~~ 6,821,899 filed on March 14, 2003 and entitled "System, Method and Apparatus For Improved Local Dual-Damascene Planarization," which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.